



District 3 e-Blast

Office of Councilmember Sam Liccardo, City of San José

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In This Issue

Sam's Corner

GET INVOLVED

- Open Commissions
- D3 Online Community
- Design the SoFa Logo
- Volunteering with D3

COMMUNITY RESOURCES/EVENTS

- State of the City – Mayor's Breakfast
- Nijiya Market Grand Opening
- CommUniverCity Day of Service

SAVE THE DATE

- Neighborhood Advisory Group Meeting (2/21/07)
- Upcoming Study Sessions
- Upcoming Neighborhood Meetings

NEWS YOU CAN USE

- Cleaning up Garbage Dumpsters
- Getting Money for Neighborhood Programs
- Free Tax Filing

Contact Us

P: (408) 535-4903

www.sanJoseca.gov/district3/

Sam's Corner: Our First Month: Swimming in Pools, Police, and Permits

Welcome to our first newsletter! In the first six weeks of our term, your District Three team is working hard to get up to speed on the many challenges and opportunities of our neighborhoods. I'd like to let you know about some of the issues with which we've been grappling in recent days: pools, police, and permits.

Pools

The recommendations proposed by the City's staff in the Aquatics Master Plan has arrived with a strongly mixed reaction. We heard expressions of relief from Gardner residents in light of the recommendation for a long-overdue upgrade to the Briebach pool facility. The staff did not recommend immediate resumption of service at the Ryland Pool, however, triggering anger from residents in Vendome and surrounding neighborhoods who have long demanded a resumption of service there. Obviously, I'll push to get both of the pools open as soon as possible. Legal and logistical impediments have made the City's upgrade at Ryland unduly expensive in light of current budgetary constraints, so neighborhood leadership have pushed for more creative ways to get Ryland up and running. Over the past week, I've pressed the issue repeatedly with city staff to explore unorthodox ways of funding the renovation and maintenance of the Ryland Pool, and they're responding. Expect more news in the coming weeks about our efforts.

Policing Downtown

Tensions surrounding our downtown nightclubs have diverted police attention and resources from neighborhoods into the downtown on Friday and Saturday nights. In recent weeks, I've spent hours discussing solutions with members of the Downtown Working Group, and we've forged a set of proposals to strike a better balance of a safe and vibrant night life in the downtown core. Those proposals include licensing promoters, having club owners bear some of the extra costs of policing, and instituting a pilot project of "soft" closings to ease the rush of thousands of club-goers into the streets at closing time. The Working Group has just approved the proposal's outlines, and city staff will work out the details. I'll push it to a council vote and final implementation in the coming weeks.

Permits: Group Homes and the Demolition of the Downtown Hospital

D3 Staff

Sam Liccardo, Councilmember

Jessica Garcia-Kohl, Chief of Staff

Roma Dawson, Sr. Policy Analyst

Khanh Bui, Council Aide

Kevin Schwaba, Council Aide

Rhonda Hadnot, Exec. Assistant

Eric Hernandez, Council Intern

Finally, neighborhood leaders have expressed widespread frustration with recent filings in our permits office. Owners of group homes in Northside and Hensley have filed applications for expansion of services, and those applications historically become impervious to community challenge. HCA's unannounced decision to file an application for a demolition permit for the former San José Medical Center buildings has also angered many, though for different reasons. Please keep in mind that ethical and legal constraints prevent me from becoming directly involved in specific matters as they move from Planning staff to the Planning Commission. We expect to work closely with our leadership in the Neighborhood Advisory Group to find more strategic approach to keeping our neighborhoods from disproportionately bearing the impacts of drug and alcohol rehabilitation facilities. I am also spending hours with industry and community leaders in an active effort to explore ways to provide accessible medical services at the former San José Medical site. These broader efforts will take time to bear fruit, but with patience and hard work, I'm confident we'll find solutions.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to serve you for the next four years. Please don't hesitate to contact us at 408-535-4903 if you have any concerns or questions.



Sam T. Liccardo
City of San José
Councilmember – District 3

GET INVOLVED

Open Commission Opportunities

Directly affect issues important to you by serving on a City of San José Board or Commission. Applications are being accepted for upcoming and future vacancies highlighted below:

- Youth Commission
- Airport Commission
- Elections Commission
- Arts Commission
- Advisory Commission on Rents
- Disability Advisory Commission
- Early Care and Education Commission
- Traffic Appeals Commission
- Senior Citizens Commission
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Library Commission
- Housing and Community Development Advisory Commission

Log onto <http://www.sanJoseca.gov/clerk/vacancy.htm> for more details.

Join D3's Online Community with Big Tent

Stay connected to your Councilmember. So that we can openly communicate and share with each other our ideas and concerns for District 3, we have set up an online community with Big Tents.

This online community forum will allow us to:

- Share information (e.g. upcoming meetings)
- Promote neighborhood activities (e.g. BBQs)
- Share best practices (e.g. successful fundraising activities)
- Share lessons learned (e.g. projects that may not have worked as planned, and lessons learned)

This Community Forum will be administered in partnership with community leaders. Special acknowledgment and thanks to Tina Morrell who will help administer this community. Please email Khanh Bui at khanh.bui@sanjoseca.gov to sign-up.

Design the South of First Association (SOFA) Logo

The South of First Area (SoFA) District is identified as South First and the surrounding area in the core of downtown San José. SoFA is enjoying a new renaissance with a critical mass of arts and culture. As such, the SoFA Committee is looking to you to assist in designing their new logo. Logo submissions should exemplify the art, culture, retail and nightlife of the SoFA District. Please contact Cheri at Cherri@twofishdesign.com for the official entry form and additional information. The deadline for submissions is March 24, 2007.

D3 Needs your Help – Be a Volunteer

We are working hard to respond to the needs of D3 and implement the vision we all have for our community, but we can't do this alone. We are looking for volunteers for a variety of projects, that include but are not limited to the following:

- Coordinating the monthly D3 e-Blast Newsletter
- Managing the website
- Coordinating community meetings and events
- Planning community outreach efforts
- Managing databases

Please email Jessica Garcia-Kohl at Jessica.Garcia-Kohl@sanjoseca.gov with your volunteering interests.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES/EVENTS

Nijiya Market Grand Opening in Japantown

Councilmember Liccardo welcomed a new market into Japantown this weekend. The market's grand opening saw a line of customers that continued outside the store for two blocks.

Nijiya Market specializes in fresh fish, meats, organic produce, fruits and freshly prepared dishes to go. While Nijiya Market is distinctly Japanese, it is owned and based in America and appeals to a diverse customer base. Nijiya is open 7 days a week from 7 am to 10 pm.

For more information, please visit their website at www.nijiya.com.

Nijiya fits the model of a good neighborhood-friendly business. We hope this opening is just one dynamic grocer in a series to come to our community.

CommUniverCity Day of Service 4/20/07

San José State University, the City of San José and CommUniverCity San José will host a big Day of Service on April 20, 2007.

SJSU students, staff and faculty will be joined by community members and partnering non-profit organizations to make this day a memorable community-service experience.

A thousand volunteers are expected to participate in nearly thirty community improvement projects located in five Strong Neighborhoods Initiative areas that surround San José State University.

Projects including:

- Serving in local elementary schools by painting murals, landscaping
- Gardening and picking up trash
- Park beautification
- Painting murals on local businesses
- Cleaning up along Coyote Creek
- Painting homes of neighborhood resident
- Facilitating a health fair for seniors – and more!

Join us for an exciting day of service and community building, including great food and entertainment at the opening ceremony and closing celebration at San José State University. Parking will be free in the Seventh Street garage.

To participate phone Leif Christiansen at 297-3302. For more information visit the Day of Service website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/dayofservice/>

You're Invited to the Mayor's State of the City Breakfast

Mayor Chuck Reed and the San José City Council invite the general public to a Community Breakfast, Wednesday, March 7, 2007, at the San José McEnery Convention Center.

The event will include the *Good Neighbor Awards* for local community leaders nominated by their councilmembers and the *Pride of San José Awards* for outstanding city employees. Councilmember Liccardo and the Mayor will honor the *Olinder Neighborhood Food Program Food Program* for their longstanding commitment to serving the community. The Olinder Food Program is an award-winning program run entirely by dedicated volunteers committed to maintaining a healthy community and increasing access to nutritious meals.

Doors to the Community Breakfast will open at 7:30 a.m. and breakfast will be served at 7:45 a.m. in Exhibit Hall 3 at the Convention Center (400 Almaden Blvd).

To cover the cost of breakfast, tickets are \$20 per person or \$200 for a table. There will also be a number of view-only (no breakfast included, coffee will be served) seats available. To purchase a ticket for breakfast or reserve a view-only seat, call (408) 286-2600 Ext. 2 or go to www.symphonysiliconvalley.org.

SAVE THE DATE

Neighborhood Advisory Group Meeting

Join us for the next Neighborhood Advisory Group at the [Washington United Youth Center on 921 South First Street, San José, CA](#) on Wednesday, February 21, 2007 at 6pm.

Upcoming meetings:

- Wednesday, March 21 at Martin Luther King Library, 2nd Fl., Room 225
- Wednesday, April 18 at Upper Watson Community Center
- Wednesday, May 30 at City Hall Wing Room 120
- Wednesday, June 20 at City Hall Wing Room 118-119
- Wednesday, August 29 at City Hall Wing Room 120
- Wednesday, September 19 at City Hall Wing Room 118-119
- Wednesday, October 31 at City Hall Wing Room 120
- Wednesday, November 21 at City Hall Wing Room 118-119

Upcoming Study Sessions

Want to learn more about issues important to our City? The following study sessions will be hosted at City Hall Council Chambers (200 E. Santa Clara St, San José, CA) and are open to the public.

- February 20: City Council Priority Setting Session (9-4pm)
- February 22: Unfunded Programs/New Initiatives (9-Noon)
- March 1: Old City Hall (9-Noon)
- March 15: Mayor's March Budget Message Study Session (1-4pm)
- March 19: Convention Center Expansion (1-4pm)
- March 22: BART (8:30-Noon)
- March 29: Airport Obstruction Study (9-Noon)

Upcoming Neighborhood Meetings

For upcoming Neighborhood Meetings please visit our webpage at <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/district3/communitycalender.asp>

Please email Khanh Bui at khanh.bui@sanjoseca.gov with updates or changes to meetings.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Garbage Solutions

Our office has received numerous phone calls about random garbage "dumpings" left at parks. These garbage intrusions are fire hazards and eye sores that require quick clean up. They also present a dilemma to the neighbors who care about the local park.

Concerns should be directed to the Department of Transportation (DOT). If you see a dumping in a public area, whether it is caused by

passing-by littering or homeless encampments or another source, call DOT at (408) 535-3850 to make a report. They will dispatch someone as soon as possible to take care of it. If they are all booked, ask the administrative assistant at DOT to patch you through to the emergency dispatch.

Getting Money for Neighborhood Programs

The Grant Institute's Grants 101 Course is an intensive introduction to the process, structure, and skill of professional proposal writing.

In three active and informative days, students will be exposed to the art of successful grant writing practices, and led on a journey that ends with a masterful grant proposal.

THE GRANT INSTITUTE: GRANTS 101

Professional Grant Proposal Writing Workshop

to be held at

San José State University

San José, California

March 26 - 28, 2007

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Student Union, Pacifica Room

Free Tax Filings

The Beehive will help you file your taxes free online using CompleteTax if you make under \$40,000 a year and have an email address. If you don't have an email you can sign-up for one directly from their site.

- Guide you through "Do-it-yourself" taxes online program
- Calculate all your tax figures automatically
- File your tax forms electronically, no stamp needed

For more information please go to www.beehivesanjose.org